

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 01463 011454Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 /104 W
-----012137 092235 /63

R 011353Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5068
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1463

NESCO

E.O. 11653: GDS
TAGS: PORG, PFOR, IS, UNESCO
SUBJECT: ISRAELI VIEWS ONUNESCO

REFS: (A) PARIS 4410, (B) STATE 41175

1. WE DISCUSSED THE CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND UNESCO FEBRUARY 28 WITH JOEL BARROMI, WHO HAS NOW TAKEN UP HIS DUTIES AS DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION IN THE MFA. BARROMI'S COMMENTS AGREED WITH THOSE REPORTED IN REFTEL (B); HE ADDED THAT THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL'S RELATIONS WITH THE ORGANIZATION DEPENDS TO A GREAT EXTENT ON THE U.S. DECISION CONCERNING THE PAYMENT OF ARREARAGES. HE SAID THAT HE IS LESS OPTIMISTIC THAN U.S. OFFICIALS AND SUGGESTED (AS BAR-ON DID IN WASHINGTON) THAT THE U.S. PAY ONLY THE AMOUNT NEEDED TO KEEP ITS MEMBERSHIP VALID. HE SAID FULL PAYMENT OF ARREARAGES WOULD ONLY LEAD TO UNESCO REVERTING TO ITS PREVIOUS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. THE SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT SHOWN IN RECENT
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 01463 011454Z

MONTHS, PARTICULARLY AT NAIROBI, WAS DUE ONLY TO
"SOME MOVEMENT BY THE AMERICAN GIANT."

2. NO RESPONSE HAS YET BEEN RECEIVED FROM DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW TO THE ISRAELI LETTER REGARDING THE POSSIBLE UNESCO VISIT TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. IT APPEARS THAT M'BOW AGREES THAT A VISIT IN THE NEAR

FUTURE WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE. BARROMI HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT M'BOW SEES NO REASON TO PRESS FOR THE VISIT AT THE PRESENT TIME AND THAT HE (M'BOW) IS WAITING TO SEE THE RESULTS OF CONGRESSINAL CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION OF PAYMENT OF ARREARAGES.

3. BARROMI ADDED THAT THE GOI HAS NOT YET MADE A DECISION REGARDING THE VISIT, AND COMMENTED THAT HE DOES NOT LOOK FORWARD TO DRAFTING A RECOMMENDATION FOR HIS MINISTER. IT WILL BE A DIFFICULT DECISION FOR THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE PUBLIC ORDER DISTURBANCES CAN BE EXPECTED IN THE TERRITORIES. BARROMI COMMENTED THAT ANY INTERNATIONAL INQUIRY INTO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THESE DAYS IS DANGEROUS (HE POINTED TO THE LATEST DISTURBANCES AT UNIVERSITIES IN ITALY, WHERE HE HAD RECENTLY BEEN VISITING).(COMMENT: WHILE BARROMI MAY BE SOMEWHAT ALARMIST IN HIS REACTION WE TEND TO AGREE THAT DEMONSTRATIONS ARE POSSIBLE, GIVEN THE VOLATILE NATURE OF WEST BANK STUDENTS AND THE FACT THAT A UNESCO VISIT WOULD BE GIVEN CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY.)
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV01463
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770070-0863
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703103/aaaadnnx.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f15a88ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PARIS 4410, 77 STATE 41175
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2946633
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI VIEWS ONUNESCO
TAGS: PORG, PFOR, IS, UNESCO, (M'BOW, AMADOU MAHTAR), (BARROMI, JOEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f15a88ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009